

THE CHRONICLE.

ED. C. CAMPBELL, Editor.

Clarksville, Tenn., Jan. 22, 1881.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

THE ASSASSIN AND COLLECTION OF TAXES.

Among the many recommendations of Gov. Marks, in his last message to the legislature, there is none, perhaps, that more urgently needs the attention of that body, in our opinion, than that which refers to the defects in the law for the assessment and collection of taxes. It may well be doubted whether the precise method pointed out by the governor is the best that the legislature in its wisdom can devise; but certainly it is, on the whole, an improvement on the present system. It has been tried, as the governor says, in many other states of the Union, and has insured something like fairness in the valuation of property, between different counties and different districts in the same county.

As it now is, the legislature meets once in every two years and fixes the rate of taxation, which must stand until the next legislature convenes. Then begins a race of diligence between an army of assessors scattered all over the state as to who shall rate property lowest, and thus do most to escape taxation. It is perfectly evident to the average of these assessors that the value of the land in his district is ten dollars per acre, and he returns it at five, he cuts down the state tax one-half; and, as a consequence, property all over the state, according to the assessors' returns, has been coming down, down, down, steadily for the last ten years, until it has declined in value more than one hundred millions of dollars, and a tax of thirty cents now is hardly equal to a tax of twenty cents a few years back. And yet the state has increased in population all the while, and now has some three hundred thousand more inhabitants than she had in 1870.

The constitution requires that taxation shall be "equal and uniform," and yet one has but to step from one county to another, or even from one civil district to another, in this state, to find that this constitutional provision is very far from being complied with. There are perhaps fifteen hundred assessors in Tennessee, a large majority of whom are undoubtedly honest and mean to do right, but each has a rule of his own for the valuation of property, and as men will differ widely upon this subject as upon all others, it follows that the assessors' returns for the assessment of property for taxation, and the amount paid by each citizen in proportion to his wealth differs widely all over the state.

The board of "equalization" provided for in each county works well on paper, but nowhere else. It would take a good deal of time and labor for the assessors in each county to meet and carefully examine each other's reports, and after the assessment upon this individual and upon that, so as to make the valuation of property something like uniform throughout the county, and yet the legislature has provided no compensation whatever for this extra work, and the assessors naturally, and, we think, not improperly, decline to waste much time upon it. Most of us have a hard time to make our bread and butter in this life, and work which the state owes Tennessee, do not think worth paying for, is hardly worth doing at all, and, as a matter of fact, is hardly ever done at all.

The whole system needs a thorough revision, and we trust will receive it at the hands of the present legislature.

THE UPPER CUMBERLAND AND ITS FUTURE.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Tobacco Leaf, in a late issue, has this to say:

The Cumberland river is very much improved from this point to the mouth, and the number of Congresses it secures a few more supporters than it did before. This is the present state of affairs, and the present state of affairs is, in our opinion, the best that can be accomplished. Then when the river is ready for the steamboat, the Cumberland may be dammed, but never broken.

It is a matter of no very material difference to us how the improvements on the Cumberland are made—whether by a system of wing dams or locks—so that it is done in the cheapest and most substantial manner, but we rather think our e. e. treats the great importance of the improvement of the upper Cumberland and its relations to the business interests of the country rather lightly. We are glad to know that so much has been done for the lower Cumberland, and hope much more may be done, but we insist that the upper waters ought not to be neglected. And why?

Perhaps few of our readers are aware that along the banks of the upper Cumberland lies one of the finest coal-fields in America, being indeed a portion of what is known as the great Appalachian coal-field, which extends from Pennsylvania down through West Virginia and into the mountainous portion of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee. The coal which we know as "Pittsburg" (the finest coal ever dug from the earth) comes from this same field, and is of the same general quality as this upper Cumberland coal. The principal mine is only a few miles above the point where the Cincinnati Southern railroad crosses the Cumberland, which is the head of navigation for small boats in a good stage of water. A petition has been numerous signed at Nashville, requesting Congress to make an appropriation for looking and damming the river so as to enable coal barges to come down at any season of the year.

The supply of coal is said to be practically inexhaustible, and, if it could be gotten out on the lower Cumberland, could be supplied at a rate much less than our Kentucky coal now costs us.

It is estimated that five cents a bushel will pay for mining and loading the barges; the cost of floating or towing it down the river would be small, and it could probably be supplied to us at a price not exceeding ten cents a bushel.

All agree that Clarksville will never be a live, go-ahead town until she gets cheap coal. Cheap coal will give us manufacturers, and manufacturers will give us population and wealth. The finest iron ore in the world is at our very door, but we cannot work it profitably for want of cheap fuel, and thus Knoxville and Chattanooga are getting ahead of us.

Congress is spending millions of dollars every year on comparatively unimportant streams in other states, and certainly nowhere could the public money be paid out to better advantage than in furnishing an outlet for the great quantity of coal in the fields, along the river, above us. Indeed the importance of the Cumberland both above and below is a matter of great concern to Clarksville. In no other way can we get competition in freights, and competition, to us indeed, is the life of trade.

We want Congress to do something for the upper Cumberland.

THE OUTLOOK FOR CLARKSVILLE.

We are just now entering upon a new year of business life, a year which, thanks to that hope that ever springs eternal in the human breast, is to most of us, fraught with bright anticipations for the future prosperity of our town and county at large. But while we are all filled with this generous hope, and are rightly looking on the bright side of things, ought we not to pause and calmly consider whether the present condition of our business and industries is a true harbinger of what we all so anxiously hope for. Verily this is an age in which the dreamer and the fossil cannot longer obstruct the wheels of progress and be respected. In all candor, we think this has been the condition of Clarksville and her people for years past.

It is true we bestirred ourselves after the great fire of April, 1878, that almost destroyed our city. That seeming great calamity proved a blessing in disguise, inasmuch that where before had stood old, dilapidated houses, crumbling under the march of time, we now have large, substantial and beautiful business houses that would be ornaments to any city. But this was all done within, we might say, one year, a year in which our city was crowded with workmen and artisans of all kinds, and Clarksville seemed regenerated and to be entering upon a new era of prosperity. But, alas, after the storm came the calm, and for the years 1879 and 1880 we have not done the business that we should. We do not say that there has not been a good deal of business done here, but that we might have done more. "Well, what's the remedy?" someone will say. "We are tired of these platitudes about 'hard times,' this eternal carping for better times, unless you can give us a remedy." The good sense and judgment of every business man of Clarksville has told us that there is no remedy in the cure. It is increased in manufacturing, railroad enterprises and other like industries. Tobacco has heretofore been king with us. The low prices, and the poor crops that "have been raised for a year or so past, admonish us that it bids fair to be so no longer. Then we must turn our attention to other pursuits, and by energy and hard work, foster and encourage them. The shapless masses and materials are all around us, we must go to the source, and we must go to the source. Every enterprise of life, from the simplest to the most complex, has its necessary drudgery. On the faithful performance of this is founded all true success, and only those who are willing to bear the burden with courage, energy and perseverance have any right to expect prosperity.

In Congress last week, during the discussion of the new funding bill, Mr. Speaker Randall left the chair, the house being in committee on the whole, and assumed the leadership of the democrats. He won leadership laurels as a tender and brilliant parliamentarian. In his reply to Mr. Fort, of Illinois, who, in commenting on his speech, reflected upon the effect of democratic legislation upon the financial condition of the country, Mr. Randall, in a brief but biting reply, said: "The democratic party, he knew, had been charged with being a party of republicans. He was entirely satisfied to let that charge stand in the light of the fact that when that party came into power money was at 7.30, and was now at 3, and could be borrowed on the credit of a nation, instead of only on the credit of a party, as the republicans had formerly boasted." We wish there were more Randalls in Congress.

SENATOR THURMAN, while discussing in the senate the other day the great abuse of the franking privilege by members of Congress, took occasion to say that it was a standing joke that members of Congress franked their shirts home to their washerwomen, in order to get them washed cheaper than they could in Washington. We hardly think this accusation could be brought against many of the republican members, for they have kept their "bloody shirts" on hand ever since the war, and have neither sent them home or anywhere to have them washed.

VICTOR HUGO said that Lamartine did not know how to spell his own compositions, being always corrected by his wife, an English lady. It seems that a great many other great men are afflicted with the same fault. We too have the same orthographic defect in our education. Don't some young lady around town want to play Lady Lamartine to us? Don't all speak at once.

We believe in high-toned, conservative, dignified journalism, and don't propose to comport ourselves after the free and fearless fashion of the Dogtown Weekly Howler or the Bangtown Bugle-Horn of Free Speech, yet we shall reserve the right to discuss the topics of the day and subjects of local interest to our county and its citizens, without fear or favor.

This census of the United States is 50,152,836 according to the official returns.

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.

The North American Review.

comes to us decidedly improved by a certain toning-down from the partisan fury of the presidential election. Only two of the articles are political, and neither of these is ostensibly partisan in character, though the paper by Judge Tourgee on public education is, in spirit, like everything which has so far proceeded from his pen—libellous against the south. Its purpose is to take the subject of public education out of the hands of the states and place it under the direction of Congress.

The other political article, by Senator John T. Morgan, brings up a subject which must be recognized by wise and patriotic men of all parties as of deep moment, the growing partisanship of the supreme court. He shows that all the successive changes in the constitution of this most important tribunal have been introduced for partisan purposes. The remedy he proposes is to make the number of its judges and the general features of its organization a clause in the constitution of the United States.

Public curiosity will cause the article which appears under the name of General Grant to be one of the most generally read, though beyond the curiosity stimulated by so prominent a name, there is nothing in the paper to distinguish it from hundreds of similar papers. It is the work of a promoter of the Nicaragua canal, and is intended to float the stock of the company formed for its construction. It is, of course, made up of considerations favorable to that route for connecting the Atlantic and Pacific, while opposing considerations are either ignored or very slightly dealt with. Among the considerations adverse to all the other schemes, the Monroe doctrine is prominently put forward, a doctrine which has no more to do with such schemes than with the Levitical law. The only way to give the Nicaragua canal the preference is to form the company and construct it, which is easily to be done, if Gen. Grant's estimates are to be accepted; but we fear there are many obstacles which have not been even glanced at in this paper. Flouting the Monroe doctrine against other schemes will not have much influence.

The other articles are: "The Pulpit and the Pew," by Dr. O. W. Holmes, in which the doctor indirectly replies to some criticisms on his former paper about Jonathan Edwards.

"Did Shakespeare write Bacon's works?" by James Freeman Clark. This is a *rebuttal* of an *absurdity* of the theory, now moribund, that the plays and poems known under the name of Shakespeare are really written by the great chancellor. It completely demolishes (if that were necessary) the most extravagant theory ever adopted and defended by learned men and women.

M. Desiree's country gives us part vi. of his explorations in Central America, illustrated by a fine photograph of a bust supposed by him to represent the moon god of the Toltec mythology.

Finally we have Walt Whitman's "Poetry of the Future." He thinks that the typical American poet is not yet born, and that when he appears he will be a phenomenon recognized by all as something unprecedented in the world's history.

We commend this February number as much the best we have received.

Aid for the Destitute.

The call for a meeting, last Friday afternoon, of our citizens to discuss ways and means to aid the poor and destitute of our city and surrounding county, was attended by the best and most influential citizens of the town. When the exercising of the greatest of all christian graces became necessary, no people on the globe are more prompt and quick to act than the Clarksvillians.

On motion of Mr. Ingram, Mr. D. N. Kennedy was called to the chair, and, with that admirable display of cleverness, that comes as easy to him as nature, the modern newspaper reporter as "a cocktail in the morn'g," appointed secretary.

Mr. Kennedy in a brief address, stated the object of the meeting.

On motion of Mr. B. W. Macrae, a committee of five was appointed to solicit contributions. The chair appointed B. W. Macrae, L. Bloch, Capt. J. J. Crumman, John Hurst and Capt. Tom Smith. Several motions, by Mr. W. E. Ely, Capt. Crumman and Capt. Smith were offered for ascertaining the extent of suffering. A motion was offered by Dr. Lupton that committees from each ward and several in the suburbs be appointed to hunt out the poor. The following names compose the committees: 1st ward—John Rick; 2d ward—W. R. Bringhurst; 3d ward—G. B. Wilson; 4th ward—J. G. Joseph; 5th ward—H. Lewis; 6th ward—H. C. Merritt; 7th ward—F. L. Smith; 8th ward—City Stacker.

Outside of corporation: M. V. Ingram, Dr. Wm. Elyon, John Bradley, W. T. Dorch and Rev. S. Scott. Mayor Crumman, John Hurst and J. W. Keese, assisted by the city officers, were appointed a committee to distribute the supplies and solicit subscriptions. A note was received from Capt. Gracy approving the object of the meeting, regretting that ill health prevented his attendance, enclosing an order from Gracy & Co. for 100 bushels of coal, and a check from Dr. Fitts for \$5.00. The finance committee went to work in earnest, and by noon Saturday had raised upwards of \$400 in money and supplies, and a great number have been relieved. But the funds in hand will not meet the emergency or last a week unless there is a change of weather or the citizens can furnish some employment.

Any one wanting to subscribe to the fund, or give anything, can do so by calling on Capt. Crumman.

TENNYSON'S new play, "The Cup," is pronounced a success. It will now be upon the lips of everybody.—Hopkinsville News.

Yes; and then there will follow "The Hicough" that will be in the stomach of everybody.

HELPING THE POOR.

EDITOR CHRONICLE: In the Jewish Talmud a town is spoken of where a bed was placed for travelers to rest upon. If they were too long for the bed, their legs were cut off; if too short, they were stretched of sufficient length to fit the bed. When a beggar entered the place, every man gave him a penny, but the law laid a severe penalty upon the man or woman who gave or sold the beggar food. Neither was he permitted to leave the town. When the beggar starved to death every man took back his penny. I have not taken this as a text to preach a sermon against charity, for "charity covereth a multitude of sins" when conducted in "decency and in order." In any other form it is "puffed up," and is calculated to do more harm than good. I firmly believe there is no place on the habitable globe where the people are so much inclined to be charitable as in Clarksville, and for this reason they are more easily imposed upon. Over two years ago the board of mayor and aldermen undertook to look after the poor of Clarksville through the members of the board and the police. Mayor Ligon faithfully looked after the needy, and all who were worthy were supplied with fuel and provisions. Messrs. F. P. Gracy & Co., who they have for the past ten or twelve years, contributed a supply of coal for this purpose. The city in the year 1878-9 contributed \$250 to the poor. At the beginning of the present administration, I am informed, \$300 was appropriated to the charity fund, and the Gracys contributed several hundred bushels of coal for charitable purposes. Our worthy Mayor Crumman, assisted by the police, has been wide awake, and as always is where the generous impulses of the man are called into action, and the poor of Clarksville have in nowise been neglected. Every month of the year bills for provisions, fuel, medicine and in some cases clothing, have been audited by the board and warrants issued for their payment. But with some people there is nothing so entertaining as getting up an excitement. That there are poor outside of Clarksville who are needing food and raiment, I have no doubt; I expect the county is full. The providing for this class should be taken in charge by the county court.

The people of Clarksville pay tax to the county for such purposes. It was very wisely decided by the county court that the poor of Clarksville, therefore, to raise by subscription \$400 to supply the poor outside of the city. The error, if there is any, was in the manner in which the distribution was made. I do not wish to find fault, but merely wish this communication to guard against mistakes in the future. Helping the poor should be systematized. Either a society should be formed, with its committees to hunt out the poor and supply them with what they need, or a similar committee, on the part of the county, should be appointed by the mayor for this purpose. If a society is formed, it should raise a small capital by donations from the citizens, give respectable concerts, lectures, scientific exhibitions, or something of the sort, instructing and elevating in their tendency—what the community sadly needs. Season tickets should be issued for a course of lectures and concerts, each business firm or citizen of means subscribing for a number of tickets. Let the committee, on the part of the poor, and investigate each case, keeping to themselves as a secret the names of those who help. There are many white families in the suburbs of Clarksville who would not take advantage of the scramble and scuffle around the groceries last Monday to procure food, because they do not consider themselves beggars or paupers. This is no way to do charity. The sufferers should be sought out in their own homes, and there and then provided for. The manner of distribution last Monday was a feast for lazy men and women and chronic beggars. Four-fifths of those who were supplied from the charity fund were unworthy objects. Not long since, a black woman, cooking for one of our best families, quit work because her wages were not increased from \$8 to \$12 per month. When the rush began, this high-priced aristocratic cook was the first to demand assistance. Some donations of food were sent her, but she refused to take them. This reminds me of the fellow who would not take the corn unless it was shelled. Some would not take their coffee without sugar; they "took sugar in their." One boy grumbled terribly because "they sent him mar brown sugar. Humph! he never used anything but white sugar in his coffee." I saw wanted dressed turkeys, others sugar-cured ham, and some would take no flour unless it was the best brand. Negroes came in from five miles around the city, with their baskets, to be supplied. One man of color rented out his farm and moved into a rented house in the suburbs, in order to come under this liberal dispensation of Christian charity. One negro woman held a note from a member of the committee stating that she was a worthy woman, when she had been arrested several times and brought before the recorder for street-walking. Of course the committee-man had been imposed upon.

I mention only a few cases which came under my observation. If Clarksville desires to have all the lazy, worthless vagabonds of creation centered in her midst during the winter months, let it be known that this plan will be repeated each year, and by the census of 1880 she will have a population of 10,000.

It strikes me that this charity business belongs to the churches. I believe every church takes up a contribution for this purpose, and the ministers and the proper church committees would only look after the poor in and out of their churches, there would be no necessity for a repetition of this grand display of Clarksville charity. As it is, there are many poor people, white and black, made up by the lack of labor this severe winter, who have derived no benefit from the fund subscribed because they did not like to be numbered in the list of those to which the charity was dispensed. I trust, Mr. Editor, I have offend-

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

We have reports from Nashville of the balloting for senator. We receive them every day, and most of our readers, no doubt, have seen them. These reports tell us that the fact that Mr. Maynard is the strongest republican candidate and Senator Bailey the strongest democratic candidate. The republicans, however, are not at all united. Judge Muse, of Jackson, West Tennessee, is polling a respectable republican vote, while there are several republican aspirants. Judge Horace H. Harrison, of Nashville, gets some votes and is thought to be a real candidate. Senator Bailey is supported by a noble band of state credit demagogues, and if they can continue the struggle with an unbroken front for a few days longer, his election will be assured.

Savage was accorded a complimentary vote from 23 members for the purpose of allowing him an opportunity to retire and write a letter (which he did) thanking his friends for their support, etc.

Gen. Bate has received a few votes, but shows very little strength. Mr. Bright has received a support of two or three votes.

The demagogues are badly divided; so are the republicans, and no one can tell definitely what will be the probable result. We trust that Senator Bailey will be elected; we know he ought to be. He has scores of the ablest men in the state working for him, and we are hopeful that he will yet end well. It looks pretty certain that no republican will or can be elected.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Removal!

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of

Great Reduction in Prices of